

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4622

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FOLNG FROM MADRAS DATED 18 OCTOBER.

QTE: MADRAS 1308

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: FRENCH AND SOVIET SHIPS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

1. TWO FRENCH NAVAL SHIPS, "COMMANDANT BOURDAIS" AND "GARONNE", ARRIVED IN MADRAS OCTOBER 17 FOR A GOOD WILL VISIT LASTING UNTIL OCTOBER 22. THE VISIT HAS RECEIVED GOOD PRESS COVERAGE, WHICH DESCRIBES THE SHIPS AS PART OF THE FRENCH INDIAN OCEAN FLEET. "COMMANDANT BOURDAIS" IS A DUAL PURPOSE FRIGATE, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF OPERATING A LIGHT HELICOPTER AND IS FITTED WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS; IT CARRIES SIX TORPEDOES IN ADDITION TO ANTI-SUBMARINE WEAPONS. "GARONNE" IS DESCRIBED AS LOGISTIC SUPPORT SHIP, WHICH CARRIES TWO HELICOPTERS AND IS EQUIPPED WITH WORKSHOPS FOR SUPPORT TO THE OTHER FLEET SHIPS. THE SENIOR FRENCH NAVAL OFFICER HOSTED A RECEPTION ABOARD SHIP LAST NIGHT WHICH WAS WELL ATTENDED BY THE INDIAN NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, MADRAS, AND OTHER NAVAL AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, AND THE INDIAN NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE, MADRAS, WILL HOST A RECEPTION FOR THE FRENCH OFFICERS OCTOBER 21.

2. PRESS REPORTS CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL OCTOBER 16 HELD SYMPOSIUM ON THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE. SOVIET VICE CONSUL
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KRIVOLAPOV QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE ONLY SOVIET SHIPS IN

THE INDIAN OCEAN WERE THOSE THAT CARRIED CARGO, THAT CONDUCTED
SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION AND VISITED PORTS OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES
THAT INVITED THEM.

DECON ON RECEIPT
EAVES UNQTE. MOYNIHAN

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